April 12 Campus Forum Summary

Members of Eastern Washington University’s facilities staff joined a discussion with Provost Brian-Levin-Stankevich, Vice President Mary Voves and Associate Vice President Shawn King.

The Provost outlined Eastern’s strategic planning process and the importance of the contributions of all members of the Eastern community to help create a plan for our future, especially in light of the leadership transition. Vice President Voves emphasized how valuable it was to have input from those who know how things are being done and how our efforts to help students can be improved.

Participants commented about the value of the Eastern experience and how much better it has become during President Jordan’s tenure. One person said she could see the difference in the quality of students and believes that the hands-on experiences that Eastern offers set our graduates apart. The group agreed that the campus itself is much improved—from lighting to new buildings.

Participants urged the administration to pay attention to ongoing maintenance needs as more buildings are added or renovated. Eastern must have a commitment to our infrastructure, not only to adding more technology or programs.

They also encouraged more opportunities for everyone to be involved in making decisions and to meet regularly. One example cited was the installation of white tile in one of the buildings. White tile is one of the most difficult to keep clean. Selection of other colors would help with ongoing maintenance, but is a decision that needs to be made early in the planning process. Likewise, there is a chronic shortage of storage areas for maintenance equipment; when tools need to be stored around the building, it add more time to the cleaning process.

Participants also agreed that they appreciate ongoing training opportunities, but would prefer to have them scheduled during summer, when there are fewer demands on staff.